

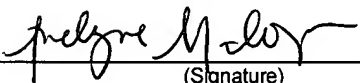
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Preliminary Amendment amends original Claims 5-8, 10-11, 14-18 and 20 to produce new amended claims that are not multiply dependent in order to reduce official fees. Once examination on the merits has begun, the Applicants may elect to amend newly amended Claims 5-8, 10-11, 14-18 and 20 to make these claims multiply dependent or to add additional claims to this application to provide coverage similar to, broader than, or narrower than the present claims. This Preliminary Amendment also amends original Claims 1-8, and 10-18, and the Abstract to delete reference numerals, which are not required by U.S. Law.

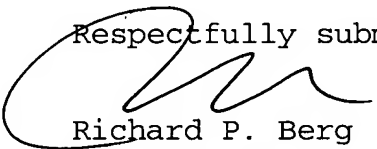
I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an Express Mail envelope with sufficient postage for Express Mailing in an envelope addressed as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" mailing Label Number **EV301025554US** addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
April 14, 2004  
(Date of Deposit)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Avelyne Malonzo  
(Name of Person Mailing)

\_\_\_\_\_  
  
(Signature)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
4/14/2004  
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard P. Berg  
Reg. No. 28,145  
Attorney for Applicants  
LADAS & PARRY  
5670 Wilshire Boulevard #2100  
Los Angeles, California 90036  
(323) 934-2300